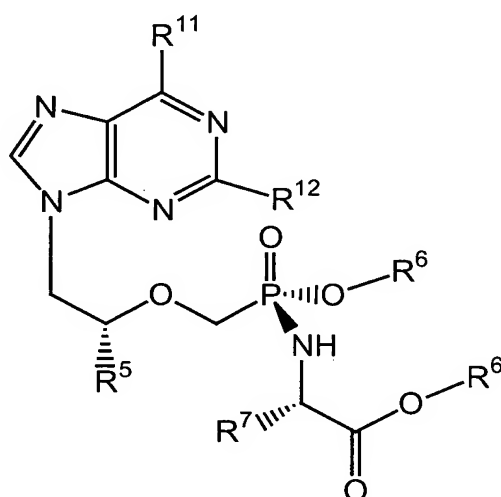


5

Abstract of the Disclosure

A novel method is provided for screening prodrugs of methoxyphosphonate
10 nucleotide analogues to identify prodrugs selectively targeting desired tissues with
antiviral or antitumor activity. This method has led to the identification of novel
mixed ester-amidates of PMPA for retroviral or hepadnaviral therapy, including
compounds of structure (5a)



(5a)

15

having substituent groups as defined herein. Compositions of these novel
compounds in pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and their use in therapy and
20 prophylaxis are provided. Also provided is an improved method for the use of
magnesium alkoxide for the preparation of starting materials and compounds for
use herein.